In the Claims

Please cancel claims 11 and 15-28 without prejudice.

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 11~~
In a cable modem termination system (CMTS) with a plurality of cable interface circuits, each of which includes a cyclical timing counter that provides timing signals to cable modems coupled to each of said interface circuits, a method of synchronizing the timing counters of a first cable interface circuit and a second cable interface circuit comprised of the steps of:
copying a first value of said timing counter of said first cable interface circuit into a storage device;
adding an offset to said first value to create a future timing counter value, the future timing value being the sum of the first value of said timing counter of said first cable interface circuit and the offset, wherein the offset amount includes the time to transfer a timing value from the master timing counter into a storage device that is local with respect to the second cable interface circuit;
copying said future timing counter value into ~~a~~ the storage device that is local with respect to the second cable interface circuit; and
copying said future timing counter value from said storage device that is local with respect to the second cable interface circuit into said timing counter of said second cable interface circuit;
wherein said step of copying said future timing counter value from said storage device into said timing counter includes the steps of:
~~a.~~ waiting a predetermined length of time until said timing counter of the first cable interface circuit is substantially equal to said future timing counter value; and
~~b.~~ copying said future timing counter value from said storage device into said timing counter of the second cable interface circuit.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 11~~
In a cable modem termination system (CMTS) with a plurality of cable interface circuits, each of which includes a cyclical timing counter that provides timing signals to cable modems coupled to each of said interface circuits, a method of synchronizing the timing counters of a first cable interface circuit and a second cable interface circuit comprised of the steps of:
copying a first value of said timing counter of said first cable interface circuit into a storage device;
adding an offset to said first value to create a future timing counter value, the future timing value being the sum of the first value of said timing counter of said first cable interface circuit and the offset, wherein the offset amount includes the time to

transfer a timing value from the master timing counter into a storage device that is local with respect to the second cable interface circuit;

copying said future timing counter value into ~~a~~ the storage device that is local with respect to the second cable interface circuit;

copying said future timing counter value from said storage device that is local with respect to the second cable interface circuit into said timing counter of said second cable interface circuit; and

wherein said step of copying said future timing counter value from said storage device into said timing counter includes the steps of:

~~c.~~ waiting a predetermined length of time until said timing counter of the first cable interface circuit increases to a value substantially equal to said future timing counter value; and

~~d.~~ copying said future timing counter value from said storage device into said timing counter of the second cable interface circuit.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 11~~

In a cable modern termination system (CMTS) with a plurality of cable interface circuits, each of which includes a cyclical timing counter that provides timing signals to cable modems coupled to each of said interface circuits, a method of synchronizing the timing counters of a first cable interface circuit and a second cable interface circuit comprised of the steps of:

copying a first value of said timing counter of said first cable interface circuit into a storage device;

adding an offset to said first value to create a future timing counter value, the future timing value being the sum of the first value of said timing counter of said first cable interface circuit and the offset, wherein the offset amount includes the time to transfer a timing value from the master timing counter into a storage device that is local with respect to the second cable interface circuit;

copying said future timing counter value into ~~a~~ the storage device that is local with respect to the second cable interface circuit; and

copying said future timing counter value from said storage device that is local with respect to the second cable interface circuit into said timing counter of said second cable interface circuit;

wherein said step of copying said future timing counter value from said storage device into said timing counter includes the step of:

~~c.~~ triggering the transfer of said future timing counter value from said storage device into said timing counter from a System Controller for said CMTS.

15-28. (canceled)